

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Cotter  
Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives  
374 Capitol Building  
P. O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Arian B. Meekhof  
Michigan Senate Majority Leader  
S-106 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Speaker Cotter and Leader Meekhof:

We write to you in regards to the Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as introduced in SB 4. As you know, the State of Indiana recently enacted a similar law. The business community's response to Indiana's RFRA has been swift and consistent in its opposition to the legislation.

Indiana's RFRA is viewed by many as a discriminatory measure, particularly towards the LGBT community. Important national businesses and organizations are reducing or eliminating their relationships with the State of Indiana and their willingness to conduct business there. In short, RFRA has created a controversy with significant commercial ramifications.

Washtenaw County's business community and the community as a whole do not need nor want this unnecessary controversy. It will likely be very damaging to commercial opportunities and general economic success. We do well in Washtenaw County because we have a forward thinking, open and inclusive business community that understands we benefit by increasing, not decreasing, the ability of people to conduct business here. This includes the broader LGBT community, but many other groups as well.

We ask that the Michigan Legislature take no further action on RFRA legislation. Avoiding further action on RFRA will help ensure our state and its communities can avoid the negative consequences of an unnecessary controversy. Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
The Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber  
The Arts Alliance  
Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill  
Aut Bar  
Bona Sera Cafe  
Bowerbird Mongo  
Cafe Ollie  
Chin-Azzaro  
Common Language Bookstore  
Downtown Association of Ypsilanti  
The Eyrie  
Golden Limousine International  
The Guild of Artists and Artisans

Heikk's Decorated Apparel Studio  
Herbal Solutions  
Massage Mechanics  
MIX Boutique  
Nelson Amos Studio  
The Rocket  
Sidetrack Bar & Grill  
Think Local First  
Trillium Real Estate  
Vixen Salon  
Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau  
The Ypsilanti Running Company  
Ypsilanti Studio

Cc: Governor Rick Snyder  
Senator Joe Hune  
Senator Rebekah Warren  
Representative Gretchen Driskell  
Representative Jeff Irwin  
Representative David Rutledge  
Representative Adam Zemke